

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of newly-presented claims 21 - 27 is respectfully requested.

In the Office action dated June 4, 2009, the Examiner issued a final rejection of all pending claims.

In response, applicants are filing this *Request for Continued Examination* with a new set of claims. Various portions of the specification have also been amended, as noted above. The specification amendments are intended to clarify the subject matter of the present invention by spelling out the acronyms used in the text and clearly defining the relationship between the CPE MSP, BPE MSP and CN MSP.

The newly-presented claims, by specifically defining the use of the CPE MSP to “aggregate” traffic from different customers and then present this aggregated traffic to the BPE MSP is considered to now distinctly define subject matter that is not found in any of the references cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of this application.

In particular, it is asserted that the previously-cited Britz et al. reference (US Patent 6,973,236) does not disclose or suggest a network configuration with at least one “secondary ring” connected between two “concentration nodes” of a primary ring, as now defined by independent claim 21. Applicants’ FIG. 1 clearly shows a secondary ring 33 as being disposed between concentration nodes 14, 18 of primary ring 32. Britz et al., rather, illustrates a plurality of mini-rings (such as mini-ring 540) emanating from a primary ring. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Britz et al. of utilizing a “customer premises equipment multi-service platform” to aggregate traffic from different customers, and then present this aggregation to a business premises equipment multi-service platform; particularly in a configuration where each BPE MSP has a ‘separate’ CPE MSP, as defined in independent claim 21.

Based on these differences, therefore, applicants believe that newly-presented claims 21-26 are in condition for allowance over previously-cited Britz et al.

The Girard reference, of record, is considered to be distinguishable inasmuch as each customer “location” in Girard is configured to include an “edge switch”. In

contrast, the intent of the present invention is to packetize customer traffic at a CPE MSP (instead of at each customer location) “without requiring any additional equipment at the various customer locations, thereby reducing the cost of access considerably” (paragraph [0024]).

The cited Knuutila et al. reference, while describing multiplexing traffic, does not disclose or suggest any type of primary/second ring architecture uses BPE MSPs and CPE MSPs as disclosed and claimed by the applicant.

Applicants believe that with the submission of these new claims, as well as the amendments to the specification, that the case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable response from the Examiner in that regard. If for any reason the Examiner does not believe that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants’ attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Akinwale Akinpelu

By: Wendy W. Koba
Wendy W. Koba, Reg. No. 30509
Attorney for applicant
610-346-7112

Date: Oct. 2, 2009